

Jobs vow for redundant expats

By SOMAN BABY

THERE are jobs at home for any Indian worker laid off in Bahrain, a visiting minister declared yesterday.

"There has been widespread concern about the negative impact of the economic recession on expatriate workers in the Gulf," said Minister of State for External Affairs E Ahmed.

"The Indian economy is strong enough to absorb such workers if they lose their jobs.

However, the ideal situation is that they continue working in the Gulf if there are opportunities to make use of their expertise here.

"Having gained enough experience in the Gulf, they can continue contributing towards rebuilding the economy of the Gulf countries."

He praised the newly-formed Bahrain-India Society for taking the initiative in finding job opportunities for Indian workers across the region who lose their jobs as the global economic crisis bites.

The society hosted a lunch reception in his honour at the InterContinental Regency Bahrain Hotel yesterday and briefed him about the job opportunities available in Bahrain.

Society chairman Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala and vice-chairman Vinay Dewan said Bahrain was not yet affected by the crisis faced by other countries in the region.

"None of the projects in Bahrain have been delayed or shelved because of the crisis," said Mr Al Sho'ala.



■ Mr Ahmed, sixth from left, at the Bahrain-India Society reception with Mr Al Sho'ala, centre, Indian Embassy charge d' affaires Ajay Kumar, fifth from right, and other officials. Right, Mr Ahmed at the CCIA dinner reception with chairman John Iype, sitting, second from left, and other officials



"Investors have full confidence in Bahrain, which is blessed with an excellent legal system, strong banking regulations and fair trade practices."

Mr Dewan, who is also president of the Bramco Group, said his group was in need of more than 100 workers immediately.

"There are many companies in Bahrain which have opportunities available for all

vocations, right from ordinary labourers and skilled technicians to managerial positions," he revealed.

Mr Ahmed said he was delighted at this news and he would instruct the Indian Embassy to co-ordinate with Indian missions

in other Gulf countries.

"Such a co-ordination will help Indian workers who may lose jobs in another Gulf country to benefit from the opportunities available in Bahrain," he added.

Mr Ahmed earlier held talks with Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs Dr Nazar Al Baharna. "We discussed the need for joint efforts to eliminate terrorism," he revealed.

"Both India and Bahrain agreed that no country should provide sanctuary for terrorists. "Everyone involved in terrorist activities

should be brought to justice."

Mr Ahmed also attended a dinner hosted in his honour last night by the Co-ordination Committee of Indian Associations (CCIA), at the Ramee International Hotel in Juffair.

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